6/28/89

Dear Bill,

I was supposed to send this month's mailing from this book club to someone, can't remember who and think maybe it is you. If not, just throw it away.

Interesting thing - just got some FBI records, without any covering letter, which is unusual, two small collections of quite old records each with a sheet on top saying I am the subject.

Only I am not the requester - someone else is.

And ordinarily the FBI will stonewall to courtito keep from disclosing names under the conditions of the subject-matter of these records.

One set relates to my having been fired by the State Department. Don't recall whether we discussed that. It was under the unConstitutional McCarran Rider. Got good lawyers, State rehired with a public apology and I and the others resigned. No charges, no hearing - no basis - but that is why they had that McCarran Rider.

The other small selections relates to what the FBI called the "Gregory" case, a case against a New Deal economist who'd been named as a USSR spy by Elizabeth Bentley.

Whatever the fact was I had no connection with it at all.

While I don't know what is afoot, and I've writen the FBI rather pointedly to find out, it can be interpreted as some smear in which they are involved.

One of the odd things is that those records should have been disclosed to me in response to my own requests that began in 1975 and were the subject of many appeals and they not only were not, the FBI said it did not have these records.

Ordinarily they do not disclose third-party names and in these records they even redacted the name of a former State security honcho who became an ambassador and is long dead, his carelessness in all matters having caught up with him. They are not to withhold the names of the dead.

But all this distorted selection about me they do disclose to another?

Yes, there are a couple of things about the Dies committee and me. Did we go into that? Dies had, meaning the committee, not the man, a Silver Shirter on its payroll, his employment masked as "witness fees," and under their guidance he entrapped me with some forgeries. The effort was to get me indicted but it wound up with the grand jury refusing that and indicting him.

The FBI does not ordinarily exert itself to provide meaningful responses in a short time so I don't expect any reaction immediately.

It is strange, though, that with these records indexed to my name they were not provided years ago or on appeal and they now are disclosed to another. Despite the provisions of two laws. Picture of the FBI upholding the law when there is someone it does not like! Should make you feel free and secure! Best, Harold Weisberg

Harold - hope all goes well with you